

Good morning, Chair Taylor and members of the committee. My name is Jan Mason and I serve as one of the Co-Chairs for the Racial Justice Council's Committee on Economic Opportunity. I am also the president of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO). I am here today to urge strong support for Senate Bill 1047.

Our work on the RJC Economic Opportunity Committee has focused on envisioning an Oregon that sees community as a financial investment. Where historic economic impacts of racism are accounted for and where inequitable financial barriers are dismantled and removed. We work towards an Oregon that ensures an equitable access and distribution of resources and infrastructure. Rural, coastal, and Indigenous communities have the same (or better) infrastructure as urban, metro, and suburban communities. We envision an Oregon where we work to build economic equity through people power. We invest in cross-cultural solidarity and abundance to create thriving, local economies.

One of the priorities of the Racial Justice Council's Economic Opportunity Committee has been to help remove barriers and create opportunities for Oregon businesses and organizations to have equity in contracting and increase access to doing business and being in partnership with the state on shared priorities and projects. For the past two years, this committee and the Procurement and Contracting Equity Work Group have had deep conversations with the Governor's Office and the Department of Administrative Services to identify pathways to increase equitable access to opportunities. Senate Bill 1047 is a result of those conversations.

Both my co-chair and I lead culturally-specific chambers of commerce and our members have long identified how arduous, complicated and time consuming it is to engage in a formal procurement process with the state. Many of our businesses are small or emerging companies that don't have staff capacity or years of experience in developing proposals that are costly to compete in a traditional procurement process. The current process favors larger, more established businesses who have dedicated staff to research, track and respond to procurement opportunities. As you know, in business, time is money and it often takes businesses an inordinate amount of time and can cost upwards of \$3,000 to develop a proposal (not including an interview process if shortlisted) to submit to the state without any confidence that the investment will be recouped with an awarded contract. Current processes can take anywhere from four months to a year before a contract is signed and the first disbursement is made.

Senate Bill 1047 helps level the playing field and will allow for increased access for businesses owned by people of color and women, for small businesses and for local businesses serving rural communities without increasing risk for the state. In fact, the bill also benefits the state and the people the state serves by streamlining processes so goods and services can be delivered more efficiently and quickly. The bill is basically a win all the way around. Which, I want to point out, is what happens when you center racial equity. When you center Oregonians and Oregon businesses that have faced the most overt, systemic forms of oppression and you identify the

barriers they face and remove them, you are removing barriers for everyone experiencing a similar hurdle.

We are grateful to DAS for their work on this bill and to Governor Kotek for her leadership in bringing the bill forward and we look forward to continuing to work with DAS and Governor Kotek on implementing this and other necessary reforms to advance equity and access in the state's contracting and procurement efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and experience with you today and again, I urge your support of Senate Bill 1047.

I'm happy to answer any questions now or at a future committee meeting.

Thank you.